

Enclosure #1 to: OGC-3499

PHASE RESPONSE WITHOUT INCIDENT (To be released only by the Under Secretary of the Air Force)

Within the past year, the Department of Defense has initiated a program directed toward improving methods of protecting sensitive information. Where practical, the Department has kept secure details as to missile firings, prohibited closeup photography of our missiles, space vehicles and supporting facilities, and has not announced when important system tests are being held. The primary purpose has been to avoid giving progress details on defense systems development which, under previous procedures, made such information available to foreign intelligence agents; permitting them to make detailed weapon system analyses.

Accordingly, current policy precludes release of any information about the present project other than that it is a classified, advanced research and development program under Department of Defense sponsorship with the Department of the Air Force exercising supervision of control and test operations.

FALL BACK POSITION

If news media pressures are of sufficient magnitude to warrant and if it is the determination of the CIA and DOD reviewing authorities that circumstances make it desirable, a fall-back position can be taken which would include the additional disclosure that it is a vehicle which is related to the development of a satellite launch system.

TOP SECRET

USAF review(s) completed.